Mandate Given to Shri K.C. Pant

339. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been appointed negotiator to interact with all interested parties in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what is the precise mandate given to Shri Pant;

(c) whether Shri Pant visited Jammu and Kashmir recently; and

(d) what has been the outcome of this visit and progress made in this endeavour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In order to promote a vigorous movement towards establishment of peace and tranquility, Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has been nominated to undertake dialogue with representatives of all walks of life from among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The agenda for the dialogue is peace and how it may be attained.

(c) and (d) In addition to some meetings in Delhi, Shri K.C. Pant visited Jammu and Kashmir during May 28th to June 2nd, 2001 and held discussions with various individuals and representatives of parties, NGOs, local media, human right bodies, religious heads, etc. for ascertaining their views. His visit evoked a good response.

Negotiations with extremist groups in North-East

340. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to tackle the rest of the different extremist groups other than NSCN(IM) and ULFA operating in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have taken any concrete step for initiating negotiation with the extremist groups like DHD, UPDS, NDFB, BLT and other groups; and

(c) if so, the details of initiatives taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Government is committed to restore the peace in the North-Eastern region. The Government has extended an invitation to all those militant groups who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to give up path of violence and to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution.

(b) and (c) Government has already entered into ceasefire agreement with NSCN(K) on 28th April, 2001. In Assam, the Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) declared unilateral suspension of its operations against the Security Forces *w.e.f.* 14th July, 1999. Union Home Minister announced suspension of operation by the security forces against the BLT in the Parliament on 15th March, 2000. Negotiations with the BLT are continuing. Other militant outfits have not yet responded to peace talks within the parameters indicated.

Measures taken to dispel misgivings of people of NES

341. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective consultation was held with all the Governments of North-Eastern States before finalising the details of the new ceasefire arrangements with NSCN (IM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been adopted to dispel the serious misgivings of people and Government of North-Eastern States,